

**Baptism of the Lord
January 12, 2025**

Gathering
God invites us to enter His presence

Prelude


Welcome & Announcements

Preparation for Worship (*Time for Silent Preparation*)

 **Call to Worship** (*Responsively*)

Susan Obenschain

Our help is in the name of the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.
—Psalm 124:8, NRSV

 **Invocation** (*Responsively*)

Susan Obenschain

We give thanks to you, God our Father,
for mercy that reaches out, for patience that waits our returning,
for your love that is ever ready to welcome sinners.
**We praise you that in Jesus Christ you came to us with
forgiveness, and that, by your Holy Spirit, you move us to repent
and receive your love.**
Though we are sinners, you are faithful and worthy of all praise.
We praise you, great God, in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

 **Opening Hymn 234**

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Confessing
God invites us to be honest with Him

Call to Confession

Susan Obenschain

The light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather
than light because their deeds were evil. Let us confess our sin to God.
—based on John 3:19, NRSV

Prayer of Confession

Susan Obenschain

God of grace, you have given us Jesus, the light of the world,
but we choose darkness and cling to things that hide the brightness of
your love. Immersed in ourselves, we have not risen to new life.
Baptize us with your Spirit, that, forgiven and renewed, we may preach
your Word to the nations and tell of your glory shining in the face of
Jesus Christ, our Lord and our light forever. **Amen.**

Time for Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Susan Obenschain

The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world.
Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name,
he gave the right to become children of God.

—John 1:9, 12, NIV

Leader: This is the Promise of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God!

Passing of the Peace

Leader: The Peace of the Lord be with You

All: And also with you

Offering

Thankful of the gifts God has given us, we offer ourselves to Him

Invitation

The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly;
the one who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.
Responding to God's bountiful gifts to us in Christ,
we have opportunity to share out of our abundance.

—based on 2 Corinthians 9:6, 8, NRSV

Offering

Offertory

Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery - Papa / Boswell

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A-men.

Prayer of Dedication

Emmanuel, God with us, the Magi followed the star to find you.
Amazed, they gave gifts. We too are amazed by your presence
among us, by the gift that you are to us. With joyful hearts, we
bring you our gifts of time, of money, of ourselves. Use these
and us to serve you and your world. **Amen.**

Proclaiming
God speaks to us through His Word

! **Preparation Hymn 267** *Come Thou Almighty King*

Scripture Reading *John 1:14-18*

¹⁴ The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We observed his glory, the glory as the one and only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵ (John testified concerning him and exclaimed, "This was the one of whom I said, 'The one coming after me ranks ahead of me, because he existed before me.'") ¹⁶ Indeed, we have all received grace upon grace from his fullness, ¹⁷ for the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ No one has ever seen God. The one and only Son, who is himself God and is at the Father's side—he has revealed him.

Sermon *"The Central Mystery"*
 Rev. Tim Latham

! **Hymn of Response 466** *Jesus, Lover of My Soul*

Responding
We respond to God's Word

! **Profession of Faith** (*In Unison*)

**We believe there is no condemnation
for those who are in Christ Jesus;
for we know that all things work together for good
for those who love God,
who are called according to God's purpose.
We are convinced that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us from the love of God
in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

—from Romans 8:1, 28, 38-39, NRSV

Prayers of the People (*Responsively*)

Lord God,
because Jesus has taught us to trust you in all things,
we hold to his Word and share his plea:
Your kingdom come, your will be done.
Where nations budget for war,
while Christ says, "Put up your sword":
Your kingdom come, your will be done.
Where countries waste food and covet fashion,

while Christ says, "I was hungry . . . I was thirsty . . .":

Your kingdom come, your will be done.

Where powerful governments
claim their policies are heaven blessed,
while Scripture states that God helps the powerless:

Your kingdom come, your will be done.

Where Christians seek the kingdom
in the shape of their own church,
as if Christ had come to build
and not to break barriers:

Your kingdom come, your will be done.

Where women who speak up for their dignity
are treated with scorn or contempt:

Your kingdom come, your will be done.

Where men try hard to be tough,
because they are afraid to be tender:

Your kingdom come, your will be done.

Where we, obsessed with being adults,
forget to become like children:

Your kingdom come, your will be done.

Where our prayers falter,
our faith weakens,
our light grows dim:

Your kingdom come, your will be done.

Where Jesus Christ calls us:

Your kingdom come, your will be done.

Lord God,
you have declared that your kingdom is among us.
Open our ears to hear it,
our hands to serve it,
our hearts to hold it.

This we pray in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

Commissioning

God sends us out into the world as His witnesses



Commission Song

My Soul Will Wait

Verse 1

*When the enemy surrounds and my heart grows faint within,
When the darkness overwhelms and my fears are pressing in,
I will trust in You, O Lord, in the silence I will wait.
I will stand upon Your Word.*

Chorus

*You're my solid rock and my salvation,
my steadfast hope that won't be shaken.
My soul will wait, my soul will wait for You.*

Verse 2

*You're my stronghold and my shield in the midst of ev'ry threat.
Though the wicked never yield, they will vanish like a breath.
Yes, I know the outcome's sure, satan's evil plans will fail.
In Your power I'm secure.*

Chorus

*You're my solid rock and my salvation,
my steadfast hope that won't be shaken.
My soul will wait, my soul will wait for You.*

Chorus 2

*You're my comfort when I feel forsaken,
my refuge and my sure foundation.
My soul will wait, my soul will wait for You.*

Verse 3

*This is love I can't explain. This is mercy unreserved.
Through Your sacrifice so great I have peace that's undeserved.
For the battle has been won and I fear no shame or loss.
Now the sting of death is gone.*

Chorus

*You're my solid rock and my salvation,
my steadfast hope that won't be shaken.
My soul will wait, my soul will wait for You.*

Chorus 2

*You're my comfort when I feel forsaken,
my refuge and my sure foundation.
My soul will wait, my soul will wait for You.*

Tag

*Pouring out our hearts before You, we will trust in You.
Perfect Savior, strong Defender, we will trust in You.*

 **Benediction & Blessing**

 **Postlude**